

The Urban District of Esher



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year Ended December 31st

1950

67349



Urban District of Esher

ANNUAL REPORT
of the Health and
Sanitary Conditions
for the Year 1950

JAMES BRYAN MORWOOD, M.B., F.R.C.S.I., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

REGINALD F. WHEELER, M.R.San.I.,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : COUNCILLOR MRS. G. M. BETTS.

COUNCILLOR E. V. BIRD	COUNCILLOR E. W. GRENNAN
" MISS W. E. BISIKER	" W. J. HALLT
" V. J. BULLETT	" J. T. O'BRIEN, M.B.E., J.P.
" H. FRANCIS	" E. ROYSTON PIKE
" T. B. GATES	" A. W. P. YOUNG

Ex-Officio Members :

COUNCILLOR E. W. WALTERS, J.P. (*Chairman of the Council*).

COUNCILLOR S. V. ARNOLD (*Vice-Chairman of the Council*).

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Personnel

Medical Officer of Health :

*J. B. MORWOOD, M.B., F.R.C.S.I., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

*REGINALD F. WHEELER, M.R.SAN.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.,
Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector and
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

*JOHN C. ARMSTRONG, M.S.I.A.,
Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector and
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

*FRANK L. BARKER, M.S.I.A.,
Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I. Joint Board as Sanitary Inspector
Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and
other Foods, and in Sanitary Science.

Nurse :

MISS V. DAWSON, S.R.N.

Clerks :

MISS J. L. OLIVER.

MISS D. ARNELL.

C. G. E. MORRISON.

Pests' Officer :

R. J. CLARKE.

Mortuary Keeper and Disinfector :

J. H. DOLLEY.

Clerk and Solicitor of the Council :

FREDERICK EDWARDS.

Public Analyst :

D. D. MOIR, M.SC., F.R.I.C.

*Contribution of salary made from the Exchequer.

Urban District of Esher

COUNCIL OFFICES.

ESHER.

July, 1951.

*To the Chairman and Members
of the Urban District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1950, which has been prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular No. 112/50 dated 6th December, 1950.

The health of the district remains good. Once again there have been no cases of Diphtheria and it is now more than 4½ years since the last case occurred.

During the year a great deal of work has been done by the department for the welfare of old people and there have been several cases in which it has been possible to provide adequate care and attention for those in need of it. Consequently it has not been necessary to take any action under section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, which provides for the compulsory removal to hospital of this type of case.

A considerable amount of time has been spent on the inspection of premises where food is prepared and sold to ensure that the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are complied with and that a high standard of cleanliness is reached.

In conclusion, I wish to thank members of the Council for their advice and support throughout the year and the staff for its keen co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. B. MORWOOD, M.B., F.R.C.S.I., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	14,847
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	51,500
Number of inhabited houses—end of 1950—according to rate books	15,135
Rateable Value	£687,945
Product of a penny rate 1950/51	£2,830

Extracts from Vital Statistics:—

	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births	727	358	369
Legitimate		346	354
Illegitimate		12	15
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—	14.1.		

	Total.	M.	F.
Still Births	10	6	4
Legitimate		6	3
Illegitimate		—	1
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births—	13.6.		

	Total.	M.	F.
Deaths	546	283	263
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—	10.6.		
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—	10.1.		

Deaths from puerperal causes:—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births
Puerperal sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	22.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	20.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	74.1

BIRTHS

During the year 727 live births were registered, this being 18 less than last year's total. The rate per 1,000 population was 14.1 compared with an average of 15.8 for England and Wales.

Of the total number 27 or 3.7% were illegitimate.

DEATHS

During the year 546 deaths were registered, being 49 more than in 1949. The death rate was 10.1 per 1,000 compared with the average of 11.6 for England and Wales. The infantile mortality rate was 22.0 per 1,000 live births and compares with 29.8 for the average of England and Wales.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	F.	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	7	3	10
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	1	1
3. Syphilitic disease	2	1	3
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	4	10
11. „ „ lung, bronchus	10	4	14
12. „ „ breast	—	12	12
13. „ „ uterus	—	4	4
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	36	19	55
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	1	1	2
16. Diabetes	2	3	5
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	33	46	79
18. Coronary disease, angina	44	41	85
19. Hypertension with heart disease	12	11	23
20. Other heart disease	38	39	77
21. Other circulatory disease	12	9	21
22. Influenza	—	2	2
23. Pneumonia	8	9	17
24. Bronchitis	11	4	15
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	4	6	10
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	5	1	6
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	4	5	9
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	1	3	4
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	29	25	54
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	1	3
34. All other accidents	9	5	14
35. Suicide	4	3	7
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
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Totals	283	263	546

DEATHS.—AGE GROUPS

Under		1—5	5—15	15—25	25—35	35—45	45—55	55—65	65—80	80 & over	Total
1											
MALES ...	9	4	2	1	1	10	25	55	128	48	283
FEMALES	7	1	2	1	2	14	18	29	102	87	263
TOTALS	16	5	4	2	3	24	43	84	230	135	546

STATEMENT SHOWING WHERE DEATHS OCCURRED.

In District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tolworth Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	...	335
Kingston County Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
London and other hospitals outside district	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Died in other districts	...	...	...	...	...	...	99
							38
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	...	546

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1950. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns

	England and Wales	126 C.Bs. and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Pop. 25,000 —50,000 1931 Census)	London Adm. County
Births	Rates per 1,000 Home Population			
Live births	15.8	17.6	16.7	17.8
Still births	0.37	0.45	0.38	0.36
Deaths				
All Causes	11.6	12.3	11.6	11.8
Typhoid and paratyphoid ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping cough	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.36	0.42	0.33	0.39
Influenza	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.07
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis (includ- ing polioencephalitis) ...	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Pneumonia	0.46	0.49	0.45	0.48
Notifications (corrected)				
Typhoid fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Meningococcal infection ...	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet fever	1.50	1.56	1.61	1.23
Whooping cough	3.60	3.97	3.15	3.21
Diphtheria	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03
Erysipelas	0.17	0.19	0.16	0.17
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	—	—
Measles	8.39	8.76	8.36	6.57
Pneumonia	0.70	0.77	0.61	0.50
Acute poliomyelitis (includ- ing polioencephalitis)				
Paralytic	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.08
Non-paralytic	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.05
Food poisoning	0.17	0.16	0.14	0.25
Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Live Births			
All causes under 1 year of age	29.8(a)	33.8	29.4	26.3
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.9	2.2	1.6	1.0
Notifications (corrected)	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births			
Puerperal fever and pyrexia	5.81	7.43	4.33	6.03

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales

International List No. and cause	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
651. Abortion with sepsis	0.09	7
650, 652. Other abortion	0.05	4
640-649, 670-678. Complication of preg- nancy and delivery	0.54	—
681. Sepsis of childbirth and the puer- perium	0.03	—
680, 682-689. Other complications of the puerperium	0.15	—

(a) Per 1,000 related live births

SUMMARY OF BIRTH, INFANTILE MORTALITY AND DEATH RATES FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS.

Year.		Births.		Infantile Mortality.		Deaths.
1945	...	15.6	...	35.8	...	11.1
1946	...	17.8	...	26.7	...	10.5
1947	...	18.8	...	24.5	...	10.7
1948	...	16.1	...	18.4	...	9.4
1949	...	14.5	...	17.4	...	9.2
1950	...	14.1	...	22.0	...	10.1

The number of bodies received into the public mortuary was as follows:

For post-mortem examination and inquest	...	...	15
For post-mortem examination only	...	...	35
			—
			50

RAINFALL

Table showing rainfall in the district during 1950, taken at the Sewage Farm, Esher :—

January	...	...	...	...	...	0.81 ins.
February	...	...	...	...	...	3.65 ..
March	...	...	...	...	...	0.68 ..
April	...	...	...	...	...	2.08 ..
May	...	...	...	...	...	1.35 ..
June	...	...	...	...	...	2.23 ..
July	...	...	...	...	...	3.54 ..
August	...	...	...	...	...	1.64 ..
September	...	...	...	...	...	2.75 ..
October	...	...	...	...	...	0.37 ..
November	...	...	...	...	...	5.12 ..
December	...	...	...	...	...	1.62 ..
Total						25.64 ins.

Compared with the figures for the previous year this is an increase of 5.44 inches.

Average yearly rainfall for the past 5 years : 22.99.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1950

DISEASES	Under		AGE GROUPS												Over
	Totals	1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65		
Scarlet fever	53	—	2	6	6	5	26	3	2	3	2	—	3		
Pneumonia	8	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	3	—		
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—		
Puerperal pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—		
Food poisoning	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—		
Measles	138	1	2	10	15	19	84	3	1	2	1	1	—		
Whooping cough	63	7	5	10	10	11	18	2	4	6	8	1	1		
Pulmonary tuberculosis	28	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis	2	—	—	—	—	2	5	1	1	2	2	—	—		
Acute poliomyelitis	16	1	—	1	1	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—		
Paratyphoid	4	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Dysentery	56	—	—	2	2	2	38	2	—	6	4	—	—		
TOTALS	377	10	9	29	36	39	174	12	10	21	19	13	5		

WARDS

DISEASES	Totals	Thames	Long	Fisher	Claygate	Cobham	Stoke	East	West	Oxshott	Hinchley
		Ditton	Ditton				d'Abernon	Molesey	Molesey		Wood
Scarlet fever	53	7	7	5	4	6	—	6	11	2	5
Pneumonia	8	2	1	2	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Food poisoning	4	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	138	15	6	9	3	4	—	10	86	3	5
Whooping cough	63	24	10	2	14	8	2	2	9	1	2
Pulmonary tuberculosis	28	3	1	3	3	2	—	5	—	—	—
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	16	4	1	5	1	4	—	2	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	4	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	56	1	—	2	—	2	—	35	15	—	1
TOTALS	377	56	28	28	27	32	3	61	123	6	13

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Scarlet Fever.—The number of cases of scarlet fever notified during the year was 53. This is a rate of 1.03 per 1,000 population. Almost all the cases were very mild and there were no deaths: 37 cases were treated at home and 16 cases were removed to hospital. There were two cases in each of three families and the remainder were single cases in a family.

Acute Poliomyelitis.—There were sixteen cases of poliomyelitis. 1950 was an epidemic year for poliomyelitis in the county of Surrey and I was requested, in association with the other Medical Officers of Health, to carry out a detailed survey of all the cases which occurred. A considerable amount of valuable information has been accumulated in this survey.

The preparation of this report entailed a great deal of extra work for the staff, whom I wish to thank.

Diphtheria.—Once again it is very satisfactory to report that no case of diphtheria was reported during the year. The immunisation campaign is being continued energetically with the full co-operation of the medical practitioners in the district.

IMMUNISATION.—Details of the number of children immunised during the year are as follows :—

Number of primary immunisations carried out by Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	...	...	228
Number of primary immunisations carried out by medical practitioners	...	...	...	...	...	295
Number of children receiving reinforcing doses by Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	...	...	481
Number of children receiving reinforcing doses by medical practitioners	...	...	...	...	...	105

Measles.—Measles has been less prevalent during the year, a total of 138 cases being notified. This compares with 374 cases last year. The majority of the cases occurred in West Molesey and Thames Ditton. There were no deaths.

Three requests were received from practitioners for prophylactic serum. This serum is of value in protecting very young or delicate contacts against the disease.

Whooping Cough.—The number of notified cases of whooping cough was 63. This compares very favourably with 139 cases in 1949.

VACCINATION.—Details of the number of children vaccinated during the year are as follows :—

Number of primary vaccinations carried out by Medical Officer of Health	34
Number of primary vaccinations carried out by medical practitioners	536
Number of re-vaccinations carried out by Medical Officer of Health	21
Number of re-vaccinations carried out by medical practitioners ...	378

Dysentery.—There was an outbreak of dysentery in an Infants' School in November and December 1950. Immediate action was taken by this Department and, with the co-operation of the Medical Practitioners and School Authorities, this outbreak was soon brought to an end.

It is interesting to note that dysentery has recently become quite common throughout the country.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

(a) Total number of outbreaks	4
(b) Number of cases	7
(c) Number of deaths	Nil
(d) Organisms or other agents responsible with number of outbreaks attributable to each :	
<i>Proteus Morgani</i>	1
<i>S. Typhi-Murium</i>	1
<i>P. Morgani</i> and <i>Staph. Aureus</i>	1
Unknown	1
(e) Food involved, with number of outbreaks associated with each food	not known

Scabies.—During 1950, 31 persons from 13 families received treatment. Of these, 29 persons showed definite lesions, the remainder being contacts in the same family.

Verminous Conditions.—Sixteen cases from eight families of infestation by the head louse were referred to the Department from various sources and were treated by the Public Health Nurse.

WORK OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

The duties of this officer include assistance with diphtheria immunisation and vaccination sessions, the treatment of scabies and other verminous conditions, routine infectious disease enquiries, the supervision of infectious cases treated at home, the following up of cases discharged from the isolation hospitals and various other useful functions. The following is a record of certain aspects of the work done during the year :—

Home visits in connection with infectious disease	...	498
Attendances at Diphtheria immunisation sessions	...	57
Attendances at Vaccination sessions	... ..	20
Home visits in connection with Scabies	... ..	44
Home visits in connection with verminous conditions	...	28
Home visits in connection with Food Poisoning	...	14
Home visits in connection with old people	... ..	42

Tuberculosis.—

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1950

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	3	4	—	—	1	—	—	—
25	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	4	4	—	—	2	2	—	—
45	4	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
55	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 upw'ds	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	1
TOTAL	16	12	—	2	7	3	—	1

It is very satisfactory to note the fall in the new case and death rates per 1,000 population. These rates are the lowest recorded since 1938.

TUBERCULOSIS

		<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
Year	Estimated Population	No.	Rate per 1,000 population	No.	Rate per 1,000 population	No.	Rate per 1,000 population	No.	Rate per 1,000 population
1940	45,270	31	0.68	4	0.08	25	0.55	1	0.02
1941	45,310	36	0.79	5	0.11	21	0.46	5	0.11
1942	45,540	35	0.76	8	0.17	18	0.39	4	0.08
1943	44,960	46	1.02	12	0.26	22	0.48	3	0.06
1944	43,200	50	1.15	14	0.32	18	0.41	1	0.02
1945	44,060	41	0.93	11	0.24	22	0.49	2	0.04
1946	48,140	31	0.64	7	0.14	16	0.33	1	0.02
1947	49,610	43	0.86	8	0.16	18	0.36	1	0.02
1948	50,790	37	0.73	8	0.15	7	0.14	6	0.12
1949	51,280	49	0.95	6	0.11	16	0.31	0	0.00
1950	51,500	28	0.54	2	0.04	10	0.19	1	0.02

At the end of the year the following number of cases remained on the tuberculosis register :—

					Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Males	...	...	...	...	130	17
Females	...	...	...	...	94	25
					<hr/>	<hr/>
					224	42
					<hr/>	<hr/>

CASES REMOVED TO TOLWORTH ISOLATION HOSPITAL

Acute poliomyelitis (2 not confirmed)	...	...	9
Diphtheria (not confirmed)	...	...	2
Enteritis	...	...	1
Impetigo	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	1
Parotitis	...	...	1
Paratyphoid (1 not confirmed)	...	...	4
Pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	2
Scarlet fever	...	...	14
Whooping cough	...	...	3

CASES REMOVED TO ISOLATION HOSPITALS OTHER THAN TOLWORTH

Acute poliomyelitis (3 not confirmed)	..	..	11
Chicken Pox	...	...	2
Diphtheria (not confirmed)	...	...	3
Enteritis	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	2
Parotitis	...	...	2
Paratyphoid	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	1
Pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	29
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	4
Scarlet fever	...	...	2
Whooping cough	...	...	1
Yaws	...	...	1

NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED YEARLY
DURING THE PAST SEVEN YEARS

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Scarlet fever	73	59	48	40	48	106	53
Diphtheria	1	3	5	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	4	5	4	3	6	10	4
Pneumonia	9	3	15	11	19	14	8
Meningococcal infection ...	1	3	1	2	2	—	—
Dysentery	10	32	12	—	2	—	56
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Typhoid	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	2	2	—	1	—	1	1
Measles	47	754	95	626	483	374	138
Whooping cough	96	48	128	45	272	139	63
Tuberculosis (all forms) ...	64	52	38	51	45	55	30
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	1	6	1	3	16
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Malaria	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food poisoning	5	—	26	40	1	7	4

	Scarlet fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Puerperal pyrexia	Food poisoning	Acute poliomyelitis	Dysentery .	Paratyphoid	Measles	Whooping cough	Pulmonary tuberculosis	Non-pulmonary tuberculosis	Totals
January ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	9
February ...	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	—	17
March ...	6	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	9	2	—	21
April ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	10	5	—	29
May ...	7	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	84	8	2	—	104
June ...	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	6	3	2	—	15
July ...	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	1	6	—	—	16
August ...	2	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	5	3	3	—	17
September ...	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	2	—	9
October ...	5	1	—	—	—	7	—	—	8	1	4	1	27
November ...	8	—	—	—	—	3	6	—	5	3	1	1	27
December ...	5	—	—	—	—	5	50	—	14	10	2	—	86
TOTALS ...	53	8	4	1	4	16	56	4	138	63	28	2	377

CASE RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES

				England and Wales	Urban District of Esher
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0.02	—
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	1.50	1.03
Typhoid	...	...	...	0.00	—
Paratyphoid	...	...	...	0.01	0.07
Meningococcal infection	...	...	...	0.03	—
Whooping cough	...	...	...	3.60	1.22
Measles	...	...	...	8.39	2.68
*Puerperal pyrexia	...	...	...	5.81	1.36

* Per 1,000 total births (i.e., live and still births).

SCHOOLS

The number of children attending the County Schools and on the rolls at 31st March, 1950, was:—

Name of School	No. on roll
Claygate County Primary J.M. ...	108
Claygate County Primary Infants' ...	77
Cobham C.E. Secondary ...	254
Cobham C.E. Primary J.M. ...	242
Cobham County Primary Infants' ...	225
Cobham Downside C.E. Primary ...	53
East Molesey C.E. Primary J.B. ...	137
East Molesey C.E. Primary J.G. ...	153
East Molesey County Primary Infants' ...	140
Esher C.E. Primary J.M. ...	198
Esher C.E. Infants' ...	107
Hinchley Wood County Secondary Mixed ...	949
Long Ditton C.E. Primary Junior Mixed ...	197
Long Ditton County Primary Infants' ...	161
Molesey County Secondary Boys ...	344
Molesey County Secondary Girls ...	316
Oxshott C.E. Primary J.M. ...	99
Thames Ditton County Primary J.M. ...	252
Thames Ditton County Primary Infants' ...	125
West Molesey County Primary J.M. ...	319
West Molesey County Primary Infants' ...	306
	4,762

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

The Staff of the Public Health Department is set out at the beginning of this report.

The provision of health services in the area remains substantially unaltered from that set out in recent annual reports.

The following table shows the number of pathological examinations during the year under review:—

Disease				Total Number
Tuberculosis	...	...	Sputa	20
Scarlet fever	...	...	Swabs	2
Diphtheria	...	...	Swabs	31
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...		Sewage Swabs	49
			Fæces	20
			Urine	13
			Food Spccimens	1
Food poisoning	...	...	Fæces	19
			Rectal Swabs	2
			Vomit	2
			Food Specimens	6
Dysentery	...	...	Fæces	211
			Sewage Swabs	9
			Rectal Swabs	9
			Dish Cloth & Scourer	2
Infective enteritis	...	...	Fæces	7
			Rectal Swab	1
				404

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. *Water*.—The water supply provided by the Metropolitan Water Board and the East Surrey Water Company in the Northern and Southern parts of the district respectively has remained above suspicion.

The regular inspection and sampling of wells in use in the rural parts of the district was continued, and nine samples of water from such sources were submitted for bacteriological examination.

2. *Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.*

No particular alterations or extensions under this heading have been carried out during the year under review, apart from the laying out of new sewers in connection with the Council's housing development.

Towards the end of the year the Council asked the Engineer and Surveyor to prepare a report with suggestions for carrying out any necessary improvements to Esher and Molesey Sewage Disposal Works. The necessity for this had arisen because of adverse reports which had been received from time to time from the Thames Conservancy with regard to the quality of the effluent which was being discharged into the Rivers Mole and Ember. This unsatisfactory position had been brought about, particularly at Molesey, owing to the fact that neither Works had been enlarged and improved for many years, except to a very limited extent at Molesey in 1939, coupled with the age and design of both Works.

A very comprehensive and illuminating technical report, together with statistics, graphs and plans, was prepared by Mr. C. G. Alderton, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., Chartered Civil Engineer, the Engineer and Surveyor to the Council, in which he envisaged the abandonment of the Molesey Sewage Disposal Works as such, and the considerable enlargement and modernisation of the Sewage Disposal Works at Esher where the combined flows would be treated, and which he estimated would cost some £200,000 to carry out. This report was accepted by the Council and Consulting Engineers have since been appointed to prepare a preliminary report with a view to the eventual implementation of the scheme.

From a public health point of view this is a desirable improvement in every way and will be welcomed.

3. *Rivers and Streams.*

Attention continues to be given to keeping the public watercourses free from obstruction and pollution.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors) :—

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	53	46	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	180	149	5	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	233	195	5	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found :—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	14	14	—	2	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	3	3	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	6	6	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	8	8	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	1	1	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ...	5	5	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	37	37	—	7	—
Outwork (Sections 110 and 111) ...					
					Nil

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1950

*To the Chairman and Members
of the Urban District Council of Esher.*

July, 1951.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my twenty-first Annual Report upon the work of your Sanitary Inspectors for the year 1950.

The report is compiled in accordance with the directions contained in a memorandum from the Ministry of Health and as required by Article XXVII (18) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1935.

It follows the lines of previous reports and, with one or two exceptions, is tabulated.

COMPLAINTS

The number of complaints received at these Offices and attended to during the year amounted to 396 relative to the following matters :—

Animals improperly kept	3
Damp Walls, etc.	98
Blocked Drains	51
Need for Cleansing Rooms, etc.	2
Absence of Dustbins	23
Overcrowding	11
Defective Roofs, Gutters, etc.	50
Non-removal of Rubbish	16
Offensive Smells	40
Water Closets Defective	13
Verminous Conditions	14
Insects, Flies, Beetles, etc.	22
Miscellaneous	53
TOTAL	396

In addition, 37 Notices were received from the Metropolitan Water Board, stating that the water supply had been withdrawn from houses for various reasons.

As each complaint or notice was received the same was investigated with the least possible delay and dealt with as required by circumstances.

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT

Number of houses and premises inspected	705
Number of houses and premises re-inspected	1563
Number of miscellaneous visits	238
Number of visits to works in progress	265
Number of visits to dairies, cowsheds and milkshops ...	8
Number of visits to bakehouses	48
Number of visits to factories	149
Number of visits to food premises	414
Number of visits re disinfection	80
Number of visits re cases of infectious disease	166
Number of visits re disinfestation	76
Number of visits re drains tested with smoke or water ...	2
Visits re Housing	35
Visits re Food and Drugs Act, 1938	164
Visits re Milk Sampling	101
Visits re Water Sampling	9
Visits to Foodshops	283
Visits to Piggeries	21
Visits re Ice Cream	17
Visits re Caravans	19
Outworkers' premises	3
Shops Act	24

NOTICES SERVED

Informal Notices (written)	221
Informal Notices (verbal)	98
Abatement Notices in respect of nuisances. Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93	54
Abatement Notices to provide covered dustbins for house refuse. Public Health Act, 1936, Section 75	38
Requisition for information, Housing Act, 1936, Section 168 ...	1
Formal Notice to provide sanitary conveniences. Public Health Act, 1936, Section 89	1
Formal Notices to provide paving and draining of yard, etc., Public Health Act, 1936, Section 56	3
Formal Notice to remove noxious matter, Public Health Act, 1936, Section 79	1
"Time and place" Notices under Housing Act, 1936, Section 11	5

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT :—**DRAINAGE SYSTEMS**

Repaired, cleansed, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Completely relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Additional provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Gullies fixed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Intercepted from sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Curbing around gullies repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
House—subsoil drained	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

MANHOLES

New provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
New covers fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Altered or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cleared and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

VENTILATING SHAFTS

Mica flap valves fixed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
New fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

SOIL PIPES

Repaired	1
----------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

WATER CLOSETS

Additional provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
New pans fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Pans cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
New flushing cisterns fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Seats repaired or new provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Door repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Internal walls rendered or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Floors repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Lighted or ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Anti-syphonage pipe provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ceilings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
External walls rendered or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

SINKS, BATHS, ETC.

New fixed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9

WASTE PIPES, ETC.

Waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
New provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Trapped	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

RAINWATER PIPES

Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
New provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34

WATER SUPPLY

New storage tanks fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Storage tank repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water reinstated or laid on	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Service pipes repaired, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Draw off taps disconnected or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

DUST RECEPTACLES

Provided	112
----------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

DAMPNESS

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90
Ventilation provided under floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
External walls pointed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
External walls rendered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
House walls treated with solution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sills repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Damp course fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

PAVING ETC.

Yards paved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

GENERAL REPAIRS

External walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
House floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Ranges or coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Internal walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	130
Ceilings provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Ceilings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	210
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Sashcords renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Chimney stacks and chimney pots repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Handrail provided to staircase	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Windows made to open	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Skirting repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Rooms ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Additional window provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

HOUSING

Number of houses built by the Council during 1950	...	...	177
Number in course of construction at the end of the year	...	...	128
Number of houses built by Private Enterprise during 1950	...	...	80
Number in course of construction at the end of the year	...	...	33

FOOD

As mentioned in previous reports, the slaughtering of food animals in this district has practically ceased.

Occasional slaughter of animals takes place by permission of the Food Executive Officer of the Esher Food Control Committee.

Food premises have been regularly visited and invariably found satisfactory.

Appended is a list giving details of the class and quantity of food condemned as unfit for human consumption.

In many cases this food was utilised for animal feeding or, in compliance with the directions of the Ministry of Food the material was returned through the suppliers to the recognised salvage organisation for reprocessing. In a few cases it was found necessary to be destroyed.

The following table shows the number of visits to shops for the purpose of food inspection, and the comparison of the number of these visits with the previous five years is interesting :—

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
To slaughterhouses ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
To foodshops ...	231	284	231	263	287	283

The following number of carcasses were examined :—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ...	—	—	—	—	28
Number inspected ...	—	—	—	—	28
All diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis ...	—	—	—	—	0.00

There were six licensed slaughtermen on the Register at the end of the year.

The following diseased or otherwise unsound meal and food was surrendered and destroyed or dealt with as previously mentioned :—

	lbs.		lbs.
Apples ...	14	Flour, Soya ...	28
Bacon ...	36	Ham (tinned) ...	88
Beef ...	251	Lobsters ...	15½
Biscuits ...	1	Margarine ...	1
Butter ...	1	Mutton ...	41
Cake ...	1½	Sago ...	1½
Calves' Heads ...	35	Sausages ...	18
Cheese ...	25	Sausage Meat ...	3
Confectionery ...	17	Semolina ...	25
Cooked Meat ...	8½	Suet ...	1
Currants ...	58	Sugar ...	28
Fish ...	856		

TINNED, BOTTLED AND OTHER FOOD :

Bacon	1 tin	Milk	210 tins
Beans	70 tins	Orange Juice	2 tins
Beef	5 tins	Peaches	14 tins
Beef corned	1 tin	Pears	9 tins
Beetroot	9 tins	Peas	77 tins
Cheese	2 boxes	Pickles	1 tin
Coffee	9 tins	Pickles	1 jar
Eggs	1,114	Pineapple Slices	2 tins
Fish	55 tins	Plums	80 tins
Fish Paste	4 jars	Preserves	49 jars
Fish Roe	31 tins	Pudding Mixture	2 pkts.
Fruit	43 tins	Salad Cream	2 jars
Gherkins	17 jars	Sausages	2 tins
Grapefruit	19 tins	Soups	88 tins
Gravy Browning	32 pkts.	Spinach	5 tins
Ham	11 tins	Stewed Steak	24 tins
Luncheon Meat	145 tins	Tomato Juice	4 tins
Malted Milk	1 tin	Vegetables	43 tins
Meat	6 tins	Wheatflakes	1 pkt.
Mixed Vegetables	21 tins		

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

A total of 358 premises have been inspected with a view to bringing them up to the standard required under the Byelaws for the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food. Types of premises are shown below :—

Bakers and Confectioners	19
Butchers	30
Fishmongers and Fried Fish Shops	19
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	35
Grocers and Provisions Stores	64
Hotels and Public Houses	59
Restaurants and Cafes, etc. (including those on or about racecourses)	89
Sweet Shops	43
	<hr/>
	358

Generally, the degree of cleanliness encountered was good, and the majority of traders expressed their desire to help improve standards. One curious point noticed in many shops was the presence of glass cases used for bottled and tinned goods, while food which was in need of protection was left on counters exposed to potential contamination. A great deal of work of an educational nature was done to bring home to certain individuals the dangers of food contamination. It is hoped that as reinspections take place an all-round improvement will be apparent.

MILK SUPPLY

Samples of milk have been taken for bacteriological examination for microscopic and biological tests for tuberculosis and the phosphatase test for detecting imperfect pasteurisation.

The results of the samples taken for the year under review are tabulated below :—

	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
Samples of raw milk submitted for bacteriological examination and for the detection of Tubercle bacilli	—	—	—	
Samples of raw milk submitted for the detection of Tubercle bacilli only	32	30	2	(contained Tubercle bacilli)
Samples submitted for the Phosphatase test (obtained from retailers)	64	61	3	
Samples submitted for the Phosphatase test (obtained from the undermentioned schools *)	11	11	—	
	107	102	5	

*Cobham County Primary Infants', Cobham C.E. Secondary, Cobham Downside C.E. Primary, Esher C.E. Primary J.M., Hinchley Wood Day Commercial Mixed, Long Ditton County Primary Infants', Thames Ditton County Primary J.M., West Molesey County Primary J.M. (2 samples), West Molesey County Primary Infants' (2 samples).

In the two cases where tubercle bacilli were found the results were immediately passed to the County Medical Officer of Health and the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The herds involved were examined and the following information was given by the Veterinary Inspector :— In both cases further sampling was carried out; in one, an animal was sent to a knacker between the date of sampling and the result of the sample being known. In the other case, further sampling and clinical examinations were carried out by the Veterinary Inspector, who finally certified the herd as non-tuberculous.

It has been remarked in previous reports that it is a serious disadvantage to the tracing of tuberculous animals that there is a time lag of six to eight weeks between the taking of the sample and the final result being received. This is due to the fact that an animal experiment is required.

ICE CREAM

Results of Ice Cream Sampling for Bacteriological Examinations :—

Sample No.	B. Coli.	Methylene Blue Test	Provisional Grade
52	Coliforms absent in 1/10 ml.	Not decolourised at end of 4½ hours	1
53	Coliforms present in 1/10 ml. Fæcal coli present	Decolourised at end of 3 hours	2
54	Coliforms absent in 1/10 ml.	Not decolourised at end of 4½ hours	1
60	Coliforms present in 1/10 ml. Fæcal coli absent	Ditto	1
62	Ditto	Ditto	1
63	Ditto	Decolourised at end of 2½ hours	2
103	Coliforms absent in 1/10 ml.	Decolourised at end of 4 hours	2
104	Ditto Fæcal coli present	Decolourised at end of 2 hours	3
108	Coliforms present in 1/10 ml. Fæcal coli present	Decolourised at end of ½ hour	3
129	Coliforms absent in 1/10 ml.	Not decolourised at end of 4½ hours	1
130	Coliforms present in 1/10 ml. Fæcal coli present	Decolourised at end of 0 hours	4
135	Coliforms present in 1/10 ml. Fæcal coli absent	Not decolourised at end of 4½ hours	1
136	Coliforms absent in 1/10 ml.	Ditto	1
144	Coliforms present in 1/10 ml. Fæcal coli present	Ditto	1
145	Coliforms absent in 1/10 ml.	Ditto	1
146	Coliforms present in 1/10 ml. Fæcal coli absent	Decolourised at end of 4 hours	2

NOTE :—

Sample Nos. 108, 130, 136, and 146 were from the same manufacturer

“ “ 63, 103, 129, and 145 “ “ “ “ “

“ “ 53, 62, 104, 135, and 144 “ “ “ “ “

NOTE :—The provisional grades which are referred to above are those introduced by the Ministry of Health. They are based on the number of organisms in the ice cream absorbing oxygen, and this is shown by the reduction of colour in Methylene Blue which is an aniline dye.

After incubation, the quicker the reduction of the colour the poorer the quality of the ice cream.

The four grades recommended are as follows :—

Grade 1 (Best quality)	time taken to reduce methylene blue	4½ hrs. or over.
Grade 2	" " " "	" " 2½ hrs. to 4 hrs.
Grade 3	" " " "	" " ½ hr. to 2 hrs.
Grade 4	" " " "	" " 0 hrs.

The methylene blue test does not indicate the types of organisms present, but shows the number of organisms as a whole present in the ice cream.

It could be said to show the bacterial cleanliness of the ice cream.

The above results continue to be better than those of the last two years, as the following figures show :—

1950		1949		1948	
Grade 1	... 56.25%	Grade 1	... 41.38%	Grade 1	... 21.74%
Grade 2	... 25.00%	Grade 2	... 20.69%	Grade 2	... 26.09%
Grade 3	... 12.50%	Grade 3	... 34.49%	Grade 3	... 39.13%
Grade 4	... 6.25%	Grade 4	... 3.44%	Grade 4	... 13.04%

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949

Number of Milk Distributors registered in the area	...	10
Number of premises registered as Dairies (not being Dairy Farms)	... ..	5

Licences under the Milk and Dairies (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Regulations, 1949, have been issued as follows :—

Dealers' Licences to sell "Sterilised" Milk	... ..	12
Dealers' Licences to sell "Pasteurised" Milk	... ..	13
Supplementary Licences to sell "Sterilised" Milk	... ..	4
Supplementary Licences to sell "Pasteurised" Milk	... ..	8

Licences under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, have been issued as follows :—

Dealers' Licences to sell "Tuberculin Tested" Milk	... ..	13
Supplementary Licences to sell "Tuberculin Tested" Milk	... ..	8

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Sampling has been continued throughout the year, a total of 164 samples of various foods and drugs having been obtained and submitted to the Council's Public Analyst.

This total represents an average of 3.18 samples per 1,000 of the population based on the Registrar General's estimated population figure of 51,500 for 1950.

The following table gives details of the samples obtained :—

						Formal	Informal
Almonds, French ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Arrowroot ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Beans, Baked ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Beer, Bitter ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Biscuits ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	7
Bicarbonate of Soda ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Blancmange Powder ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Brawn ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Bread ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
Butter ...	...	...	...	...	...	10	—
Cakes ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Cherries, Cocktail ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Chocolate Limes ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Coconut, Shredded ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Coffee ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Confectionery ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
Cornflour ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Cream of Tartar ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Curry Powder ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Custard Powder ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Demerara Sugar ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Dessert Powder ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Doughnuts ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Essence of Rennet ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Fish Cakes ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Flavouring Essence ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Flour ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Flour, Confectionery ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
Gelatine ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Golden Raising Powder ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Grape Fruit Squash ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Gravy Browning ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Gravy Powder ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1

Continued.

						Formal	Informal
Green Pea Soup	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Green Tomato Ketchup	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Horseradish Sauce	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
icing Sugar (Icette)	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Jaffa Juice	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Jam, Apple and Blackcurrant	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Jam, Strawberry	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Lemonade Crystals	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Liver Salts	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Marmite	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Mayonnaise	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	46	2
Mints	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Molasses	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Mussels, Dutch	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Onion Powder	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Orange Squash	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Passion Juice	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Paste, Fish	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Paste, Meat	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Pastries	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
Pastilles, Blackcurrant	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Pepper, Black	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Pexicon	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Salad Cream	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Sandwich Spread	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Sardines	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Sauce, Pickapeppa	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Sausages, Beef	...	...	...	...	...	7	—
Sausage, Breakfast	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Sausage, Pork	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Sausage, Liver	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Shortbread	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Soup, Mockturtle	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Soup, Tomato	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Spice, Mixed	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Steak Pie	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Sulphur Lozenges	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Tea	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Thyme, dried	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Tomato Ketchup	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
						—	—
					Total	74	90
						—	—

Genuine ... 155 Not Genuine ... 9 Total ... 164

The following statement gives details of the samples reported upon adversely by the Public Analyst :—

<i>Sample No.</i>	<i>Article. (F, formal; I, informal)</i>	<i>Details of Irregularity.</i>	<i>Action Taken.</i>
1	I. Demerara Sugar	This sample contained :—0.14% of sago.	A warning letter was sent to Vendor.
6	I. Pexicon	This sample contravened Food Labelling Order as the label did not specify the minimum quantity of food in the container.	Manufacturer communicated with. Remainder of stock at Vendor's withdrawn.
26	I. Bread	This sample was contaminated with rodent excreta.	The defendant was prosecuted and fined £1 with £6 17s. 6d. costs.
27	I. Bread	This sample was contaminated with rodent excreta.	The Council decided that no action be taken as the Vendor was the same as for sample (No. 26) above.
58	I. Concentrated Tomato Soup	This sample contained an excessive proportion of tin, namely 2.3% grains per pound, instead of not more than 2% grains per pound.	The remaining stock in the hands of the Vendor was surrendered as unfit, etc., and destroyed.
71	I. Bicarbonate of Soda	This sample contained :—2% of wheat flour, a foreign ingredient.	A warning letter was sent to Manufacturer.
77	F. Milk	This sample was 2% deficient in milk fat.	A warning letter was sent to Vendor.
133	I. Fairy Cake	This sample contained a large piece of course string.	The defendants were prosecuted. found guilty, but in view of their record the magistrates granted an unconditional discharge on payment of £26 5s. 0d. costs.
148	I. Bread	This sample was contaminated with moulds.	A warning letter was sent to the Manufacturers.

FACTORIES

The number of visits made under the Factories Act, 1937, was 197, as follows :—

48 to Bakehouses.

149 to other Factory premises.

Nineteen Bakehouses have mechanical power and eleven are without mechanical power. There are no underground bakehouses.

The number of factories in the district with mechanical power is 180.

The number of factories in the district without mechanical power is 53.

The number of workplaces is 50.

The number of Certificates issued as to means of escape in case of fire, as provided by Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1936, was three.

SHOPS ACT, 1912—1935

Three complaints were received as to contravention of the Acts as follows :—

For selling goods on a Sunday	1
For keeping open after permitted hours	1
For insufficient sanitary accommodation	1

Each complaint was investigated and the matter rectified.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report of Pests Destruction for period 1st April, 1950, to 31st March, 1951.

With the repeal of the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919, and the coming into force of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act on 31st March, 1950, the Council became the authority to carry out the work of Pest Control in this area, in place of the Surrey County Council. Mr. R. J. Clarke, assistant supervisor of Rodent Control with the Surrey County Council, was engaged as Pests' Officer and the work was commenced as from 1st April, 1950.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are the responsible Ministry under this Act, and the Act requires the following conditions to be observed :—(i) The Local Authority shall be responsible for control of pests in their area. (ii) They

shall test and treat any rat infestation that may be found in their sewage systems and on any of their property. (iii) If business premises are treated for pest control, a charge shall be made to cover the work entailed. In the case of private dwellings the Council are at liberty to charge or to do the work free as they think fit. A free service was decided upon in this area.

Providing the work is carried out to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries a grant is made to the Council equal to 50 per cent of the total cost, with the exception of the cost of work at business premises which must be fully recovered.

Generally speaking, the work during the period under review has been difficult, mainly due to the very wet season and subsequent high wastage of the harvest in rural districts, giving a greater food supply than is normal for these pests, which, automatically, is reflected by a higher survival rate. As the food is gradually cleared the rodents tend to move to built-up areas in search of other supplies, and consequently re-infestation has occurred in many places quicker than is usual.

One disturbing case of "Weil's Disease" occurred at Molesey during the latter part of the period under review. This is a disease of rats, but is communicable to man. The percentage of rats infected with this disease is high. When the case was reported, a survey was immediately made of the area and an infestation was found covering five premises where pigs were being kept. A treatment was put in hand from which 24 dead rats were found, resulting in a complete clearance of these pests from that area.

Inspectors from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries make visits to the district periodically and have expressed their satisfaction in the manner the work is being carried out.

Mr. Clarke has also attended the Courses and Discussions held by the Ministry so that he may be acquainted with any new methods of control which may arise.

Routine testing of the public sewers in the district was carried out during the year as follows :—

176 manholes were test baited, which is equal to 10% of all manholes in the district.

53 manholes were found to be rat infested.

3 separate treatments were given during the year and the infestation reduced to 1 manhole only.

Sewage Farms and Tips have also been inspected and treated.

48 infestations at other Council properties have been dealt with during the year.

The number of business premises for which there are agreements is 43, the value of these being £289 4s. 0d.

Number of visits made to business and private premises	3,441
Number of private premises treated	529
Estimated Rats and Mice destroyed	2,980
Total number of miles covered during the year	7,120

From time to time enquiries are received for advice in regard to infestations by various types of insects, beetles, cockroaches and wasps, and every endeavour is made to be of help.

SPRAYING PONDS AND DITCHES

The systematic spraying of ponds, ditches, water courses and water holes in the district with Mosquito Oil has been carried out as in previous years.

In conclusion, I desire to place on record my appreciation of the support given by everyone in the Department and to thank the officers and staff of other Departments of the Council for their ready co-operation and helpfulness.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

REGINALD F. WHEELER,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.